

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheet(s) of drawings include changes to Figure 1.

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 20-28 stand withdrawn and claims 12-19 and 29-35 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 1-11 and 20-28 have been cancelled, claims 12, 29, and 33 have been amended, and new claims 36 and 37 have been added. Support for the amendment and new claims may be found, for example, in Figure 2 of the present application, and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 12-19 and 29-37 are currently under consideration.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

**Drawings**

A. The Office Action asserts that Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as -- Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated.

Applicants respectfully disagree, and submit that cartridge 24 is described in paragraph [0020] as "having one or more internal guide surfaces to increase the tape path and reduce the potential for tape edge damage." Accordingly, although the internal guide surface is not directly shown, Figure 1 is not described as including only that which is known.

B. The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims – In particular, the Office Action points out that the "leader block" of claim 19 is not shown in the figures.

Applicants have amended Figure 1 (as well as paragraph [0022] of the specification for consistency) to include the feature of a leader block adapted to be releasably attached to the take-up reel. The amendment is fully supported by the claims as originally presented; accordingly, no new matter has been added.

**Specification**

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to because it does not reflect the elected invention, i.e., tape drive, and should be modified appropriately. Applicants have amended the abstract as indicated herein to reflect the elected invention.

### **Claim Objections**

Claim 29 stands objected to because of the following informalities: (a) Claim 29, line 1, the recitation of “the steps of” after the word “comprising” should be inserted appropriately.

Applicants have amended claim 29 herein to recite “comprising the acts of,” and therefore request the rejection be withdrawn.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112**

Claims 29-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 29 and 33 herein to address the Examiner’s rejection and request the rejection be withdrawn.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102**

A. Claims 12, 13, 15-19, 29-30, and 32-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hu (U.S. Patent No 6,246,542).

Applicants have amended claim 12 herein to recite that the storage tape is guided within the tape drive along a tape path passing adjacent a data transducer, “wherein the storage tape passes adjacent the data transducer along the tape path between the first guiding element and the take-up reel.” Applicants submit that such features are clearly not disclosed by Hu. In contrast to such features, Hu discloses: “Tape drive 89 has a pair of magnetic heads which engage tape 15 at both openings 71, 73 in cartridge 11.” Hu, col. 3, lines 39-40. As clearly seen in Fig. 2 of Hu, the position of magnetic heads (not shown) for engaging tape 15 at openings 71 and 73 fails to meet the

features of claim 12. Accordingly, Hu fails to disclose or reasonably suggest that tape drive 89 includes a data transducer positioned between the un-numbered member identified by the Examiner on Page 4 of the Office Action as the first guiding element of the drive and the take-up reel 91.

Furthermore, in light of the specific dual sided recording system and method taught by Hu, modifying the disclosure to meet the presently recited features is not reasonably suggested. Accordingly, for at least these reasons the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 12, and those claims depending therefrom, allowed.

Claim 29 has been amended similarly to claim 12 and is allowable over Hu for at least similar reasons as claim 12 stated herein. Accordingly Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn and all claims allowed.

#### **Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103**

Claims 14 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hu (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,542).

Claims 14 and 31 depend from claims 12 and 29 respectively and are allowable over Hu for at least similar reasons as stated above. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 14 and 31.

#### **New Claims**

Claims 36 and 37 have been added. Claim 36 includes recites, *inter alia*, wherein “the storage tape is guided within the cartridge housing in a single direction around the axis of rotation of the supply reel.” For example, the tape path within the cartridge housing is guided in a single rotational direction, e.g., in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction, with the cartridge housing. Such a feature is clearly supported by Figures 2-6 of the present application. Applicants submit that these feature, along with other features of claim 36, are not disclosed or suggested by art of record. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of claims 36 and 37.

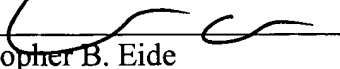
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212022700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: July 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Christopher B. Eide

Registration No.: 48,375  
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP  
755 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, California 94304-1018  
(650) 813-5720